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UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 001016

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DAKAR PLEASE PASS TO BISSAU WATCHER; IO PLEASE SHARE WITH  
PM/PPA FOR ACTION REQUEST, IF APPROPRIATE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CORRECTED COPY: GUINEA-BISSAU: SECURITY COUNCIL  
CONCERNED WITH SECURITY SECTOR, DRUGS, AND UN TRANSITION

REF: STATE 1140261

[1](#)1. (SBU) This is an action request. Please see para 15.

[1](#)2. (SBU) SUMMARY: In various UN and USUN meetings recently on Guinea-Bissau, UN officials have discussed the challenges facing both the country and the follow-on UN mission there. In the Security Council on November 5, UN Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) Representative Joseph Mutaboba said in an open session that there has been progress on national reconciliation, especially since he has secured a dialogue between President Sanha and Prime Minister Junior. He reiterated the "window of opportunity" for Guinea-Bissau, but warned that hegemonic politics and intra-party divisions threaten stability. Ambassador Rice, during the Council's closed consultations, said the U.S. remains deeply committed to helping Guinea-Bissau achieve a sustainable peace and pushed for progress on the Commission of Inquiry into the March and June political assassinations.

[1](#)3. (SBU) SUMMARY CONTINUED: Also in the Council's closed consultations, UN Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Costa described a "disturbing" drug problem in both Guinea-Bissau and in broader West Africa. Ambassador Rice noted the U.S. concern with drug trafficking. Following consultations, the Council adopted a Presidential Statement, S/PRST/2009/29. In a meeting with a DPA staffer on November 2, USUN staff heard that the transition from UNOGBIS to the integrated mission, UNIOGBIS, planned for January 1, 2010 is on track, although most of the staff for the mission probably will not be in Bissau until mid-January and beyond. Earlier, Mutaboba, in a meeting with Ambassador DiCarlo on October 30, asked for U.S. assistance in obtaining a biometric passport reader for Guinea-Bissau, and asked the U.S. to deploy the PISCES program there. Finally, Mutaboba asked to be put in touch with the Department's Coordinator for Counter Piracy so that UNOGBIS (and UNIOGBIS) can play a role in that effort. END SUMMARY.

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POLITICAL RECONCILIATION AND SSR ON TRACK...FOR NOW  
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[1](#)3. (SBU) During an open session of the Security Council on November 5, UNOGBIS Representative Mutaboba said that there has been momentum in recent days on political reconciliation. President Sanha had opened the legislature on November 3 and called for a National Stability Pact. The Speaker of the Parliament also called on legislators to expedite security sector reform (SSR) laws. Sanha's appointment of a new Prosecutor General for the Commission of Inquiry was a positive step, and the new defense leadership (including the

swearing in of the Chief of General Staff on October 27) has been "legitimized." Mutaboba reiterated the Secretary-General's sentiment that there is a "window of opportunity" in Guinea-Bissau, and told Council members that Guinea-Bissau still needs help.

¶4. (SBU) Brazilian PermRep Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's (PBC) configuration on Guinea-Bissau, also participated and flagged insufficient infrastructure in the country as key to economic recovery. African Union Acting Permanent Observer Tete Antonio worried that Guinea-Bissau's army was oversized compared to the general population; he also said that solving the problems with the pension fund for retired military was the key to success on SSR. Guinea-Bissau PermRep Alfredo Lopes Cabral, in unscripted remarks, explained that the needs of his country still warrant the international community's confidence. He also asked for international partners to help build prisons, explaining that the people of Guinea-Bissau need to have faith in their justice system.

¶5. (SBU) In closed consultations following the open session, Mutaboba shared two "good news" items with Council members. First, he said he has been able to secure a dialogue between President Sanha and Prime Minister Junior. Sanha, according to Mutaboba, expressed his appreciation to the UN for bringing the two officials together. Mutaboba suggested this momentum could help with the national political dialogue and appealed for Council members to help bilaterally. Second, Mutaboba has urged the Guinea-Bissau military to break away from partitions, and called this the "only way to end impunity." He pleaded with the Council to help fight organized crime (including drugs, small arms and light

weapons, and human trafficking), as well as to help secure and monitor Guinea-Bissau's borders.

¶6. (SBU) Ambassador Rice noted that the U.S. remains deeply committed to helping Guinea-Bissau achieve a sustainable peace, and is encouraged by the June and July elections. She also informed Council members that the U.S. planned to re-open a Mission in Bissau in the near future. She suggested that the national defense reform plan adopted by the National Popular Assembly in 2007 should serve as the basis for SSR in Guinea-Bissau. The United Kingdom agreed that SSR, as well as counter-narcotics, were the "immediate priorities" for Guinea-Bissau. Most Council members mentioned elements of SSR in their statements. Mutaboba while answering wrap-up questions at the end of consultations asked Council members to be more proactive in their SSR assistance, and not wait for the Government of Guinea-Bissau to sign off on a strategy. He said he would repeat this message when he met with the European Union in Brussels on November 9. (COMMENT: During negotiations prior to November 5, the French and UK experts mentioned holding off on SSR until the Government had a better idea of what it wanted to do. France took a hard line on protecting European Union equities in the PRST, which noted the EU's role in SSR. END COMMENT.)

¶7. (SBU) Ambassador Rice asked for an update on the Commission of Inquiry into the March and June political assassinations, including what could be done to protect witnesses associated with its work. She flagged the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) technical assistance to the Commission and asked partner countries to do what they can to assist; Russia thanked the U.S. for the FBI's work in this area. During Mutaboba's rebuttal, he did not answer the questions posed about the Commission, deferring judgment until after the anticipated "progress" the new Prosecutor General would kick-start.

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SOBERING MESSAGE ON DRUGS IN WEST, AND EAST, AFRICA  
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¶8. (SBU) In both the open meeting and closed consultations, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director

Antonio Maria Costa alerted Council members to what is becoming a disturbing drug problem in Guinea-Bissau. He expressed concern that the international community had "wasted time" since he first alerted members five years ago about the West Africa drug problem. He also made a link between the country's rising drug trade and its poor judicial system, uncontrolled sea and air space, and open land borders. In closed consultations, Costa highlighted the intercontinental drug problem, in which drugs originating from Afghanistan and Pakistan are transiting through East Africa and converging in the Sahel area with those from West Africa. He also explained that West Africa is becoming a hub for drug consumption, not just transit. He posited that chemical precursors do not originate in West Africa, so are obviously coming from elsewhere (he suggested Asia, coming through the Democratic Republic of Congo, and then to Mexico and West Africa).

¶9. (SBU) Ambassador Rice said that the U.S. is extremely concerned about drug trafficking in West Africa, and suggested the Economic Community of West African States should be encouraged and supported to take the lead on a coordinated, regional approach to fight drugs. She also encouraged the UN Office for West Africa to do its part in the effort. All Council members agreed with Rice, with most calling for more funding for counter-narcotics efforts. France asked for regular UNODC briefings on Africa-related trafficking; Costa in response said he would welcome the opportunity. Libya said that the drug problem in West Africa is not only a regional issue, highlighting the role North Africa plays in fueling the trafficking.

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A HARD FOUGHT PRST  
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¶10. (SBU) Following consultations, the Council adopted a Burkinabe-drafted PRST (S/PRST/2009/29) after last-minute revisions from Russia. Intense side negotiations during consultations between Burkina Faso, Mexico (who insisted on inclusion of the wording), and Russia--as well as the U.S. and France--ultimately helped work out differences.

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TRANSITION TO UNIOGBIS ON TRACK FOR JANUARY 1, 2010  
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¶11. (SBU) Mutaboba told the Council that the integrated follow-on mission, UNIOGBIS, would be ready to go on January ¶1. He said that UNIOGBIS had been given an "ambitious" mandate and offered no details on other aspects. In a meeting with USUN staff on November 2, UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) IntegratedPeacebuilding Missions Unit staffer, Vina Najibullah (protect), who is responsible for all hiring and administrative aspects of DPA peacebuilding missions, gave blunt details about the transition from UNOGBIS to UNIOGBIS. Like Mutaboba, she believes UNIOGBIS will be up and running on January 1, but full staffing will take a number of months. She said that DPA was "not good at field work," but has learned lessons from the integrated peacebuilding mission in Sierra Leone (the first such integrated mission). DPA has requested \$19 million for UNIOGBIS with 119 staff, which includes 35 safety and security staff and 32 support staff. She said that DPA has completed 80 percent of the interviews for staff positions, but new UN hiring practices are slowing down the process.

¶12. (SBU) Najibullah asked for U.S. assistance in ensuring the ACABQ recommends to the UNGA's Fifth Committee that it adopt the proposed budget for UNIOGBIS, adding that Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe often says that "we should not continue anemic (peacebuilding) missions; we need to invest for five years instead of continuing to trickle a small amount of money in." She also said that Department of Field Support (DFS) Assistant-Secretary-General Anthony

Banbury (U.S.) was a "breath of fresh air," and personally spearheads a group in DFS to help with peacebuilding transition missions. (COMMENT: Mutaboba during his myriad meetings in NY offered no staffing details. Similarly, the Secretary-General's recent report (S/2009/552) on Guinea-Bissau lacked adequate information on plans for UNIOGBIS. Post found out more in the meeting with the DPA staffer than we had in any other meeting. The Mission has received an advance version of the proposed budget which will be issued as A/64/349/Add.3. The Fifth Committee will begin its consideration of the proposed 2010 budgets and ACABQ reports on all special political missions in late November. END COMMENT.)

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MUTABOBA ASKS FOR U.S. HELP ON CRIME, DRUGS, AND  
COUNTER-PIRACY  
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¶13. (SBU) In a meeting with Ambassador DiCarlo on October 30, Mutaboba asked for U.S. assistance to curb transnational crime and drugs. He expressed frustration that Guinea-Bissau now has biometric passports, but does not have the necessary machine to read them. He had personally visited the airport in Bissau and had taken a trip to the Senegalese border in an effort to expose the key problem: lax security associated with having a diplomatic passport; Bissau authorities do not check a diplomatic passport holder's bags at all, making drug trafficking easy.

¶14. (SBU) Mutaboba also asked for the U.S. to deploy PISCES (Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System) in Guinea-Bissau. In this regard, he commented that INTERPOL's presence in Bissau is incompetent staff, therefore other assistance is needed. He lamented that Guinea-Bissau's police are "close to nothing," and UNOGBIS has only been able to help sporadically with training. Mutaboba also expressed appreciation for the FBI's work on the Commission of Inquiry.

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ACTION REQUEST  
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¶15. (SBU) Mutaboba asked to be put in touch with the Department's Coordinator for Counter Piracy, Robert Maggi, to discuss counter piracy and Guinea-Bissau's role. Ambassador DiCarlo agreed such a meeting was a good idea. (COMMENT: Mutaboba seemed anxious to carve out a role for himself in counter piracy, including by working with other UN missions in West Africa. END COMMENT.) Post requests Department assistance to arrange such a meeting or telephone call. Post

also requests Department's position on Mutaboba's two requests above (paras 13 and 14), and whether Post should seek more information from the UN on these requests.  
Rice